

Mayflyer

January 2004

V33-11

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The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 12/17/03:

by **Bob Wyble**

Bill Billett reviewed minutes from the Board Meeting of 12/12/03, noting that DTU is in the process of developing a brochure for distribution in local fly shops, at chapter meetings etc. **Jim Stephens** reported that we currently have 503 members. **Wayne Boggs** gave a detailed Treasurer's report to keep members abreast of how DTU spends chapter monies for a wide array of chapter activities. December is election time for DTU Officers and Board Members. The following DTU members were elected to office: **President - Bob Wyble; Vice President - Jim Stephens; Secretary - Scott Trefny; and Board of Directors - Bill Billett and Dee Lehman.** Congratulations to those who were elected to office.

Bob Wyble took time to review DTU's accomplishments since 1968 and to review goals for the coming year (see the President's Report for more details).

Following the business meeting **Ted Downs** introduced **Ray Ellis**, our presenter for the evening. Ray guides Steelhead and Salmon fishing trips on the **Salmon River** in Pulaski, New York in the fall and winter, and fishing trips in Alaska in the summer. Ray began the program with a video of fishing for Salmon and Steelhead on the **Douglaston Salmon Run** in Pulaski. After viewing catches of Steelhead and Salmon in the twenty-pound plus range, Ray took us to **Oak Orchard Creek** (between Rochester and Buffalo) for a peek at catching Brown Trout. New York State has the best fishery in the United States for catching large Brown Trout.

Ray likes to use egg patterns in the fall because that's what Steelhead are feeding on

naturally. He utilizes longer (10 foot), six-weight rods and bottom bounces the egg patterns on a tight line. He does not use a strike indicator for bottom bouncing. The trick is to use enough weight to feel it ticking on the stream bottom. Steelhead will hold 6" to 9" from the bottom, so if you are not right on the bottom you will not get as many hook ups. Some anglers prefer using a strike indicator with long casts and big mends in the line to permit the fly pattern to get down to the bottom, but Ray maintains that this method is less effective and will not result in as many hook-ups as bottom bouncing.

Optimum water temperature for catching Steelhead is 45-55 degrees. Steelhead remain in the Salmon River all winter, but the action slows down when the water temperature drops below 45 degrees. Ray has been keeping records and believes that there are two factors that negatively affect Steelhead taking flies. Steelhead will strike when the water temperature is below 45 degrees, but when there is a sudden drop in barometric pressure you'd be better off sitting by the fire, tying flies. The second factor is a full moon. Ray is convinced that the number of strikes drops significantly during a full moon. When the water temperature warms to 60 degrees in the spring, the Steelhead leave the Salmon River, and go back into Lake Ontario.

Following Ray's presentation, **Gary Interdonato** was the lucky winner of a guided fishing trip with Ray on the Salmon River. Thanks Ray for an informative program.

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Wednesday
January 21st
7 PM

Quality Inn
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Program
"Fishing Iceland for
Atlantic Salmon,
Char, and Sea Run
Brown Trout"
by
Jim Finn

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

25th Annual
Spring
Banquet
& Auction

Saturday
March 27th
2004
5:00 PM

Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

As we close out one year and begin a new year its time to focus on goals for 2004. In 1968 the original purpose of DTU was to:

1. Obtain a special regulation fly-fishing area on the Donegal Springs Creek and the Octorara Creek.
2. Get people, particularly school students interested in fly fishing by going into schools and starting fly tying classes

Since 1968 DTU has been very busy doing a wide variety of projects. Consider all of the projects we have worked on since then.

- Bank stabilization
- Stream fencing
- Hog slats for cattle crossings
- Dam removal
- Planting trees in riparian buffer zones
- Maintaining a tree nursery
- Fly tying classes
- Big brother/big sister fishing derby
- Youth field day
- Fly fishing expo
- Special Olympics
- Annual banquet and other fund raisers

We have been a very active chapter and we have accomplished a lot that we can all be proud of. We do what we do because we believe we can make a difference improving coldwater streams in Lancaster County and so we can have some fun fishing. We don't get paid and we don't expect to get paid. We are volunteers who believe in a cause. So how do we decide what we will work on next year? First, we will continue to work on the functions listed below.

- Mayflyer publication and distribution
- Programs for chapter meetings
- Banquet fund raiser
- Addition of trees to our nursery and maintenance of our nursery
- Big Brother/Big Sister Fishing Derby
- Youth Field Day
- Fly fishing Expo
- Special Olympics

Many of you volunteered to help with these activities last year and we will count on your help again this year.

While these functions are very important we

must remember our commitment to cold water conservation. Volunteers have responded to requests in the past to install stream fencing, cattle crossings etc., but once the projects were completed we've pretty much left the landowners to take care of ongoing maintenance. We need to give the land owners a hand to maintain the projects we have completed. Therefore a top priority this year will be ongoing **maintenance**. We will need your help to provide this maintenance.

If you would like to help with this ongoing maintenance, please contact Bob Wyble by email wyble@ptd.net or call 733-4939.

Chapter Elections

by **Gary Roulston**

2004 Chapter Elections were held at our December Chapter Meeting. Candidates for election to Officer and Board Member positions are selected each year by a Nominating Committee (appointed by the Board) and are approved as candidates for election by a vote of the entire Board. These candidates are then elected to their respective positions by a vote of those Chapter Members present and in good standing at the December Chapter Meeting. This year's elections were facilitated by Gary Roulston. The entire slate of Officers and Board Members recommended by the Nominating Committee were elected by a unanimous oral vote. There were no nominations from the floor.

Officers elected were: **Bob Wyble**-President; **Jim Stephens**-Vice President; **Scott Trefny**-Secretary. Bob and Scott are serving their second and final one-year terms in their respective positions. Jim will be serving the first of his two one-year terms.

Board Members elected were: **Bill Billett** and **Dee Lehman**. Both will be serving for two three-year terms, as is specified for Board Members in our By-Laws.

Last year the Board embarked on a process to promote structured turnover of Board membership by the establishment of term limits and the creation of "Board Members At Large" positions. This year is the first step in that process. Next year will continue that process with two additional new Board Members being elected.

Officers

President

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Ephrata, 17522

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Treasurer

Wayne Boggs

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Downingtown, PA 19335

610-942-4931 (Home)

bluedun@comcast.net



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Program Committee

Chairman: Ted Downs

January's Program will feature **Jim Finn**. You may remember Jim from the great presentation he made to DTU several years ago. You may also know him as the former owner of the Mossy Creek Fly Shop. His presentation this time will feature fishing in Iceland for Atlantic Salmon, Arctic Char and Brown Trout.

Fishing for Atlantic Salmon is what Iceland is famous for. The Atlantic Salmon season runs from June 1st to September 20th, but the prime time is much shorter, only 4 to 6 weeks from the beginning of July to late August. Prime time Atlantic Salmon fishing is very hard to get, as almost all of it is booked a year, or even years, in advance. It's also very expensive, with prices ranging from \$800 to \$2,000 per rod, per day.

Iceland also has Brown Trout that can be very large (well into double figures), and Brown Trout fishing is not nearly as expensive nor as structured as Salmon fishing. Resident Arctic Char are very plentiful in most lakes in Iceland (too plentiful in fact, so they tend to be very small, only ½ to 2 lbs). Sea-run Arctic Char are however another matter. They are larger and stronger (2 to 5 lbs). The season for sea-run Arctic Char is the month of August.

Come and join us on Wednesday, January 21st for what promises to be an excellent and a colorful presentation.

Fundraising Committee Report

Chairman: Dan Brandt

As the Holidays end and Winter sets in, it's a perfect time to begin to think Spring and to make plans to attend our **25th Annual Spring Banquet and Auction**. As usual, our Banquet Committee will be putting together lots of items for our various raffles, along with other items to bid on in our auctions. A featured auction item this year will be (2) US Open Golf Tournament gold passes. This year's US Open will be held in Southampton, NY, from June 14 to 20. We will also have: shotguns; rods; reels; books; TV's; grills; VCR's; furniture; trips; and much more. It all happens on **March 27th, 2004** at the **Quality Inn and Suites** on Oregon Pike. You'll be receiving a separate mailing soon, containing raffle tickets and pre-registration forms. Don't miss this great opportunity to spend time with your friends and support Donegal TU. If you would like to help in any way please contact **Dan Brandt** at: dnkbrandt@dejazzd.com or call **717-664-2332**.

Membership Committee Report

Chairman: Jim Stephens

Welcome to the following new members. From Lancaster-**Martin Shedlock, Patrick Dimmerling, Jere Saxinger and Fred Albright**. From Manheim-**Lawrence Bricker**. From Lititz-**Eric Trussell**. Total membership is now **503**. Just a reminder that TU is still running the special new membership rate of \$17.50. That is half the regular new membership rate. So, if you have a fishing buddy or friend that has shown interest in TU, now is definitely the time to join!



New Members: Greg Marco & Eric

Keystone Coldwater Conference by Gary Roulston

Pennsylvania Trout is pleased to announce the 2004 **Keystone Coldwater Conference**, to be held at the Penn Stater on **Saturday, February 28, 2004**. This year's conference, "*Managing Runoff – Urban and Rural*", will provide many stimulating sessions, covering urban themes such as handling stormwater and sewage, and how to deal with development and transportation issues. Rural sessions will focus on problems related to agriculture, forestry, mineral recovery and erosion from dirt and gravel roads. The Keynote speaker will be Joe Armstrong, long-time Trout Unlimited activist, involved with protecting Valley Creek, an urban fishery, and author of Trout Unlimited's Guide to Pennsylvania Limestone Streams. The \$30 registration fee includes all sessions and a gourmet lunch. Program details and registration materials will be available by mail in early January. Call 814-863-5100 for information or visit the program website at www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwaterconservation. Attendees can also choose to stay for an optional evening dinner, featuring outdoor writer and naturalist Marcia Bonta, presenting "An Appalachian Year."

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Fly Of The Month

“Freight Train”

Submitted by Ralph Cutter

Originated by Randall Kaufmann



Description

A beautiful fly worthy of framing. Steelhead seem to enjoy it as well. A lightly dressed fly that is exceedingly effective under bright skies. For overcast days or at dusk, I switch to its kissing cousin the Coal Car, tied with a black calf tail wing.

Recipe:

HOOK: Tiemco 7999 #2-#10. **THREAD:** Black 6/0. **TAIL:** Purple hackle fibers. **RIB:** Silver oval tinsel. **BODY:** Fluorescent orange and red wool, and black chenille. **WING:** White calf tail and pearl Krystal Flash. **COLLAR:** Purple hackle.



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WHAT'S NEW AT:

New York State:

by Bob Wyble

The big deal in New York State for 2004 is a **ban on the sale of lead fishing sinkers** (weighing 1/2 oz. or less) within the state of New York. The following statements were taken from a press release on the new law, which was enacted on May 8, 2002.

Governor George E. Pataki today signed into law a measure that will **ban the sale** of lead fishing sinkers in New York State, helping to prevent waterbirds from being injured or killed from exposure to these potentially toxic materials.

"The toxic effects of lead sinkers are a threat to waterfowl, especially loons, and these new restrictions will help protect birds and other wildlife," Governor Pataki said. "Fishing is a popular sport in all areas of New York and this law will promote responsible fishing through the use of non-toxic sinkers."

The law bans retail sales of lead fishing sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less. In addition, the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be required to provide notice of this new ban in the annual State Fishing Guide.

Fishing sinkers are small devices anglers attach to a fishing line to sink the line below the surface of the water. Lead sinkers that are lost or become detached from a fishing line, especially smaller split-shot types, are often mistaken for food or grit by waterbirds such as ducks, geese, swans, gulls and loons. Birds ingesting lead sinkers may become sick or die from lead poisoning, or may act strangely due to toxic effects of the shot, increasing their risk of death from exposure or predators. For the past several years, DEC has notified anglers of the potential threat to waterfowl from the use of lead sinkers and the availability of non-lead alternatives.

Howard Cushing, president, New York State Conservation League, said, "Sportsmen and sportswomen strongly support this measure to prevent waterfowl and other wildlife from being accidentally injured by lead sinkers. We were pleased to work with the Audubon Society, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and other concerned groups on this issue and reach a consensus that addresses the problem of lead sinkers."

Bernard C. Melewski, acting executive director of the Adirondack Council said, "This new law is a triumph of cooperation between environmentalists, anglers and

committed lawmakers, all of whom were needed to secure the Legislature's and the Governor's approval for the lead sinker ban. Working together, we will have saved the lives of thousands of loons, herons, swans, geese and other water birds by the end of the decade, and thousands more as the generations pass. This small, well-timed change in the law will have a permanent, profoundly positive, impact on the environment."

DEC Commissioner Crotty said, "Governor Pataki and the State Legislature have taken a critical step to protect waterfowl from the dangers of lead sinkers. By using non-toxic sinkers, anglers of all ages will still be able to enjoy fishing in a manner that does not harm our environment." Many of New York's neighboring states also banned the sale and/or use of lead sinkers, which is expected to limit the availability of these sinkers and promote production and sale of non-lead alternatives.

According to the terms of the law, beginning in May, 2004 you will no longer be able to **purchase** lead sinkers within New York State. However you will still be able to **fish** with lead sinkers there, should you choose to do so. If you choose to continue to fish with lead sinkers in New York State, you would have to purchase them in another state and bring them with you. Other sinkers (including split shot) made from less toxic, or non-toxic, materials are also available.

Donegal TU

by Ted Downs

Wal-Mart Grant

On Friday, December 19th I accepted a \$1,000 bonus grant from the **Wal-Mart Corporation** on behalf of Donegal Trout Unlimited. The money will be used for our coldwater conservation programs throughout the county. We would like to thank **Wal-Mart** and **Russ Colton**, manager of the Ephrata Store, for their funding support.

Lititz Run/Millport Conservancy

For those interested in purchasing Millport Conservancy fishing badges, we now have 2004 badges available. DTU member Glen Nephin will handle badge sales. Glen can be reached at 525 South Locust Street, Lititz, PA 17543, or at 717-626-7593. Lynn Myers of the Millport Conservancy mentioned that a stream cleanup will be needed, since there has been much debris accumulation on Lititz Run. Glen is aware of this and will be scheduling a winter cleanup shortly after the New Year.

3 Month Chapter Planner

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
January	Board Meeting	Wed. 1/14 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 1/21-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Jim Finn "Fishing Iceland for Atlantic Salmon, Char, and Sea Run Brown Trout"
February	Board Meeting	Wed. 2/11 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 2/18-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	George Magaro "Delaware River Shad Fishing"
March	Board Meeting	Wed. 3/10 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 3/17-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Carol Stevenson "Fly Fishing For Recovery"
	25th Annual Spring Banquet & Fundraiser	Sat. 3/27-5:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Fun, Food & Fundraising!

Montana River Trilogy

(Continued from page 8)

drys and light and dark emergers. Supposedly the hottest fly was a PMD cripple. No problem, because most of the flies I tie look like cripples. I believe Ed was the only one of us to pick up fish on the PMD dry. To do that, he abandoned the boat and managed to wade close enough to a feeding pod to put his fly on their plate. Of course, he also managed to put half the Missouri inside his waders. It was extremely tough to get a boat close enough to surface feeders to cast without putting them down. The fish always seemed to be about ten feet away from your last cast. The answer was the lower profile of wading.

One of the few times I was able to wade, I had a small flush of excitement. I was fishing a shallow arm of the river between the main bank and a small island. I was in the middle of the flow when I looked upstream and saw a five-foot snake bearing down on me. The snake was trying to get to the island, but the current was carrying it downstream faster than it could swim. For a while, it looked like the snake and I were on a collision course. I don't know if rattlesnakes can swim, but I do know that snake looked like a rattlesnake.

Now, I also know the snake didn't want to meet me, and God only knows I didn't want to meet that snake. I was concerned that it might do something irrational if we had a chance meeting. I did my best Cyrano De Bergerac imitation, using my wading staff like a sword, to fend off the snake. Blechschmidt was a witness to this encounter, and I can only say he didn't act in a gentlemanly manner. He laughed and made a number of rude remarks that I can't repeat.

Because of the high water, the Missouri didn't yield nearly as many fish as the Bighorn. One of our groups, who shall remain nameless, went fishless on the Missouri. In fact, during the two days we were on the river, a whole lot of fishermen got skunked. Dale did have one run where he picked up six fish in a short time by fishing nymphs right on the bottom with three split shot. He had a PMD emerger on a dropper. The exceptionally high water level just made the Missouri a different river. At normal levels, the Missouri may be the best of all.



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Mayflyer

Montana River Trilogy by Don Shaw

The Missouri River

After three days on the Bighorn, we climbed into the van and moved out, heading for the Missouri River. Our destination was Craig, Montana, and the Wolf Creek area that Norman Maclean wrote about in his novel A River Runs Through It.

We headed out of Fort Smith to Hardin, picked up Route 90 through Billings, then followed the Lewis and Clark Trail (still Route 90) through Big Timber, Livingston, and Bozeman. After we passed Manhattan (the place where they don't take American Express.), we picked up Route 287 and stayed on it through Helena until we hit Holter Lake, Holter Dam and the Missouri. We followed the Missouri to Craig and set up camp at the Missouri River Trout Shop.

The accommodations were comfortable and quite modern. One small inconvenience had us sharing rest room facilities with other lodgers, male and female alike. It probably wouldn't bother most people, but it did present problems for somebody who normally sleeps naked, drinks beer and gets up to go in the middle of the night.

Normal procedure on the Missouri, like the Bighorn, is for the angler to put in with a drift boat up river, right below Holter Dam,

drift or row to selected spots, then get out and wade.

During periods of extremely high water, safe wading areas on the Missouri are few and far between. The water was really up when we hit the river, so a lot of fishing was being done out of the boats. That was fine; but, with two to a boat, that often meant one of us had to row and position the boat while the other one fished. We shared rowing chores, but it still robbed us of a lot of fishing time. Again, like the Bighorn, the Missouri River fish hung out in pods. Find one and you found a bunch.

The other guys in the group had warned me that the Missouri rainbows were faster, tougher and a lot harder to land than their cousins in the Bighorn. I thought "Oh yeah, where I come from a rainbow is a rainbow is a rainbow." Well, where I come from ain't the Missouri, and they were right. The Missouri rainbow is a tougher, faster, bigger-shouldered fish. I'm not sure why this is so, but I'm told that the Missouri strain is different than that found in the Bighorn. The few fish that I had on went down river like a bat out of hell. If any of them had been over the 20-inch mark, they would have taken me with them.

Flies of choice were brown and green caddis emergers; palomino emergers; picket pins, with and without bead heads, and PMD

(Continued on page 7)